Puget Sound Regional Council

Equity Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 5, 2026 • 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

Attend

- Join the webinar at https://psrc-org.zoom.us/j/81124325552?pwd=VSCbMHxYwowbce8K9l390CTgLVLMUY.1 and enter Passcode: 581284.
- To join by phone, call 833 548 0276 US Toll Free and enter Webinar ID: 811 2432 5552 and Passcode: 581284.

1. **Welcome and Introductions (5:30)**
2. **Reports**
   a. Meeting Summary for October 1, 2026*
   b. EAC Member Announcements & Check In
   c. GMPB and TPB Board Selection*
   d. Policy Board Meeting Summaries*
3. **Discussion Item (5:50)**
   a. Census Bureau Proposed Rule* – Josh Brown, PSRC
4. **Discussion Item (6:10)**
   a. Inclusive and Accessible Outreach* – Robin Koskey, PSRC & Elizabeth Ralston, Accessibility Consultant
5. **Break (6:30)**
6. **Discussion Item (6:40)**
   a. Inclusive and Accessible Outreach Cont.* – Robin Koskey, PSRC & Elizabeth Ralston, Accessibility Consultant
7. **Discussion Item (7:15)**
   a. Quarterly Engagement Activity* – Noah Boggess, PSRC
8. **Zoom Poll (7:25)**
9. **Next Meeting: December 3, 2026, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

The EAC regularly meets on the first Thursday of the month, from 5:30-7:30 pm, unless otherwise specified. See below for the upcoming meeting dates:

- December 3
- January 7

- February 4
- March 4
- April 1
- May 6
- June 3

10. **Adjourn (7:30)**

***Supporting materials attached**

For more information, contact Mikayla Svob at msvob@psrc.org.

Sign language, and communication material in alternative formats, can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling 206-464-7090, TTY Relay 711.

العربية| Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Français | French, 한국어 | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng việt | Vietnamese, visit https://www.psrc.org/contact/language-assistance.

Puget Sound Regional Council

Equity Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
Date: October 1, 2026
Location: Remote Only

Presentations from the meeting are available on the Equity Advisory Committee webpage.

Welcome

Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. He welcomed everyone and asked Mikayla to begin the roll call for attendance.

Autrina Martindale reminded members of the Freedom Run 5K 2026 event in Marysville on October 3.

Debbie Lacy shared that Eastside for All will hold a virtual event, LD 45 & LD 48 Housing Equity Candidate Forum – General Election, on October 5.

Lisa Espinosa invited members to attend the White Cane Day Walk 2026 on October 17 at the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL).

Corey Orvold invited members to attend the Hosmer Trunk or Treat event in Tacoma on October 25.

Staff Announcements: GMPB and TPB Board Representatives Selection, Policy Board Meeting Summaries, and Meeting Topics Overview: Quarter Four

GMPB and TPB Board Representatives Selection

Charles shared with the EAC background information on the roles and responsibilities of the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) and Transportation Policy Board (TPB) (PDF) representatives and alternates. Members learned about how they will select the EAC representatives and alternates for these boards.

View the PSRC Board Participation (PDF) presentation.

EAC board representatives and staff provided a summary of the Growth Management Policy Board and Transportation Policy Board meeting actions.

Charles also provided a brief overview of the remaining topics on the EAC meeting calendar for 2026.

View the 2026 Topics Calendar (PDF) presentation.

Discussion Item: PSRC 2027 Recommendations to the State Legislature
Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, and Alyssa Quinn, Senior Government Relations Specialist, briefed the Equity Advisory Committee on the process to adopt recommendations to the 2027 Washington State Legislature and asked the committee for feedback.

The committee asked for follow up from PSRC staff regarding the proposed changes to the 2030 Census by the U.S. Census Bureau.

View the PSRC 2027 Recommendations to the Washington Legislature & Legislative Update (PDF) presentation.

Questions? Contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@psrc.org, or Alyssa Quinn, Senior Government Relations Specialist, at aquinn@psrc.org.

Discussion Item: Regional Economic Strategy: Equity Data and Best Practices
Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, and Carol Naito, Data Applications Program Manager, led a discussion with the Equity Advisory Committee on equity data that can be used to measure opportunities and outcomes related to economic development activities.

Members responded to the following:
“Do the data measures presented provide useful insight into equitable economic opportunities and outcomes?”

- Need to provide better clarification on Kindergarten Readiness measure
- Benefits of Head Start program to provide college level education without the associated costs. This can bring opportunities to those who may not be able to afford post-secondary training.

Members responded to the following:
“Are there other economic development strategic areas or data measures that should be considered?

- Metric – Quality of Life: Food Access
- Metric – Business Climate: Displaced Businesses
- Metric – Car Ownership: Zero-vehicle households
- Strategy – Equity in Infrastructure & Land Use: Homeownership strategies
- Strategy – Tenant protections: Elimination of junk fees for renters

View the Regional Economic Strategy: Equity Data and Best Practices (PDF) presentation.

Questions? Contact Jason Thibedeau, Economic Development Program Manager, at jthibedeau@psrc.org, or Carol Naito, Data Applications Program Manager, at cnaito@psrc.org.

Adjourn
At the close of the meeting, members participated in a poll to evaluate the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Members Represented at the Table
See attached attendance roster.

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present
Charles Patton, PSRC
Mikayla Svob, PSRC
Carol Naito, PSRC
Jason Thibedeau, PSRC
Robin Koskey, PSRC
Alyssa Quinn, PSRC
Michael Jenkins, PSRC
Erin Auzins, King County

ATTACHMENT:

A. EAC Member Attendance for the October 1, 2026, Meeting

PSRC Equity Advisory Committee - Attendance Roster

Jurisdiction	Member					
King County	Annie Tran					
	Debbie Lacy	1				
	Erin Bryant-Thomas	1				
	Julia Jannon-Shields					
	Lisa Espinosa	1				
	Megan Espinoza	1				
	Rhea Biswas	1				
	Thanh Nguyen					
Kitsap County	Gabriela A. Ituarte	1				
	Maria Fergus	1				
	Jewel Sheperd-Sampson					
	Shannon Turner					
Pierce County	Corey Orvold	1				
	Julius Moss	1				
	Keshreeyaji Oswal	1				
	Laurenne Sayles	1				
	Sophia Lana Castro	1				
Snohomish County	Autrina Martindale	1				
	Vivian Obah					
Total Members	**Attended**	**13**				

Puget Sound Regional Council

November 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Equity Advisory Committee

From: Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives

Subject: **GMPB and TPB Board Representatives Selection**

IN BRIEF

During its meeting on November 5, 2026, Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) members will revisit the roles and responsibilities of Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) and Transportation Policy Board (TPB) representatives and alternates. Members will also select the EAC representatives and alternates for these boards.

DISCUSSION

During its meeting on November 5, 2026, EAC members will revisit the roles and responsibilities of Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) and Transportation Policy Board (TPB) representatives and alternates. The current representatives and alternates are:

- Corey Orvold - GMPB representative
- Laurenne Sayles - GMPB alternate
- Autrina Martindale - TPB representative
- Jewel Shepherd-Sampson - TPB alternate

Responsibilities for the position include:

- Share the views of the EAC during monthly GMPB / TPB board meetings (staff will share notes from previous EAC meetings to provide a sense of how the committee feels about a topic, when relevant)
- Provide short meeting summaries to the EAC (staff will assist with this summary presentation)

Members who expressed interest in this position will be selected by the EAC via an anonymous poll during the November 5 meeting. Below please find the rules for the selection process:

- The member who receives the most votes will get to choose which board they would like to serve as a representative for
- The member who receives the second most votes will serve as a representative on the other board
- The member who receives the third most votes will get to choose which board they would like to serve as an alternate for
- The member who receives the fourth most votes will serve as an alternate for the other board

NEXT STEPS

If necessary, PSRC administrative staff will reach out to newly elected board representatives and alternates to attend onboarding sessions with Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, or Paul Ingrahm, Director of Growth Management. Board representatives and alternates will attend Transportation Policy Board (TPB) and Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) meetings starting in January 2027.

For more information, please contact Charles Patton, Program Manager, at cpatton@psrc.org.



Transportation Policy Board At Work

A video of this meeting is available on the Watch Board Meetings webpage.

October 8, 2026

2027 Recommendations to the State Legislature
The board was briefed and provided feedback on the recommendations to the Washington State Legislature for the 2027 legislative session. PSRC staff are proposing a similar framework of recommendations as last year, with focus areas in transportation, housing, climate and economic development. The Executive Board will review and adopt recommendations at their December meeting. View video and presentation.

For more information, contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at rkoskey@psrc.org or 206-798-4462.

2027 Project Selection Process
The board discussed PSRC's 2027 project selection process leading up to the adoption of the Policy Framework for PSRC funds in January. Staff provided overview of the project selection process, highlights including previously awarded projects from the 2024 process and discussed areas of refinement for 2027. View video and presentation.

For more information, please contact Kelly McGourty, Director of Transportation Planning, at kmcgourty@psrc.org or 206-971-3601.



Growth Management Policy Board At Work

A video of this meeting is available on the Watch Board Meetings webpage.

October 15, 2026

Recommend Certification of Comprehensive Plans
The board recommended the Executive Board certify the comprehensive plans for Carnation, Mercer Island, Ruston, and Kitsap County. View the comprehensive plans video and comprehensive plans presentation.

For additional information, please contact Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management, at pinghram@psrc.org, or Erika Harris, Principal Planner, at eharris@psrc.org.

Recommend Certification of ReDiscover Downtown Kent Subarea Plan
The board recommended the Executive Board certify the downtown subarea plan for Kent. View the subarea plan video and subarea plan presentation.

For additional information, please contact Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management, at pinghram@psrc.org, or Nancy Ferber, Senior Planner, at nferber@psrc.org.

PSRC 2027 Recommendations to the State Legislature
Staff shared a federal and state legislative policy update with the board, including proposed changes to the 2030 Census and the state revenue forecast. The board reviewed the agency's 2027 Recommendations to the Washington State Legislature and provided feedback on priorities. View the legislature video and legislature presentation.

For additional information, please contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations, at rkoskey@psrc.org.

Manufacturing/Industrial Centers
Staff presented three issues related to Manufacturing/Industrial Centers (MICs): impacts to adjacent comments, changing industrial employment, and industrial uses. The board provided input on how to address these issues through center designation and subarea plans. Staff will develop potential amendments to the MIC Framework for board consideration at upcoming meetings. View the MICs video and MICs presentation.

For additional information, please contact Paul Ingraham, Director of Growth Management at pinghram@psrc.org, or Nancy Ferber, Senior Planner, at nferber@psrc.org.

Zoned Housing Capacity Analysis
Staff shared results from an early analysis of PSRC's Future Land Use dataset that demonstrates increases in zoned housing capacity across the region. View the data analysis video and data analysis presentation.

For additional information, please contact Carol Naito, Program Manager – Data Applications, at cnaito@psrc.org, or Lauren Engel, Senior Planner/GIS Analyst, at lengel@psrc.org.

Puget Sound Regional Council

November 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Equity Advisory Committee

From: Charles Patton, Program Manager – Equity Policy and Initiatives

Subject: **Census Bureau Proposed Rule**

IN BRIEF

PSRC's Executive Director will brief the Equity Advisory Committee on the agency's response to proposed changes to the 2030 Census, including the rationale for PSRC's approach and the potential implications for regional planning.

DISCUSSION

The U.S. Census Bureau has proposed changes to the 2030 Census that could affect who is counted, where people are counted, and what demographic information is collected. These changes could result in incomplete population counts and reduced access to the demographic data that PSRC and its partners rely on to understand current conditions, plan for future needs, and evaluate progress toward equitable outcomes in the region.

PSRC is preparing a public comment urging the Census Bureau to reconsider the proposed changes. The comment highlights concerns about excluding non-citizens from population counts, introducing a citizenship status question that could discourage participation, and discontinuing the collection of race and ethnicity data.

An accurate and complete census is essential to effective regional planning. Incomplete population counts could affect federal funding allocations, regional forecasts, and transportation planning. The loss of consistent demographic data could also limit PSRC's and its partners' ability to identify disparities, evaluate demographic trends, and assess whether policies and investments are meeting the needs of communities across the region.

PSRC is coordinating with regional and national partners to raise awareness of the proposed changes and encourage public participation in the comment process. The

agency has shared information with its policy boards and external partners, and is coordinating with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) on a separate organizational comment.

The Executive Director will provide additional context on PSRC's approach and the importance of an accurate and inclusive census for the region.

For more information, please contact Charles Patton, Program Manager, at cpatton@psrc.org.

ATTACHMENTS

A. NARC Comment on Proposed Changes to the 2030 Census
B. NARC 60-Day Extension Request

National Association of Regional Councils
660 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 440
Washington, DC 20001
202.986.1032
www.NARC.org

October 13, 2026

U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

Re: **Docket USBC-2026-0628, Decennial Census of the Population of Americans; Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions**

To the Census Bureau:

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Census Bureau's proposed rule for the Decennial Census of the Population of Americans; Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions (Docket USBC-2026-0628).

NARC serves as the national voice for regional councils and believes regional cooperation is an effective approach to addressing planning and service delivery needs for infrastructure, economic development, public safety, the natural environment, aging in place, and more. For 60 years, NARC has represented regional organizations before Congress and federal agencies and promoted collaboration among governments and stakeholders across the United States.

Regional councils—also known as councils of governments, regional planning organizations, and similar entities—are public organizations that undertake intergovernmental cooperation across municipal, county, and state boundaries and help communities address challenges that extend beyond individual jurisdictions. Governed by a locally elected board of directors, regional councils convene elected officials and local leaders to develop shared solutions to regional problems, coordinate investments, plan for future growth, and improve efficiency of public services. Many regional councils serve federally designated functions, including Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), Economic Development Districts (EDDs), Workforce Development Boards (WDBs), public safety and emergency communications systems, and other federally supported programs.

Regional councils accomplish their goals through planning and service delivery, which rely on accurate demographic data to undertake the analyses necessary to develop effective plans and to organize the proper logistics for service delivery needs. These data serve as the foundation for transportation, housing, economic development, environmental, aging, and public safety planning. They enable regional councils to assess current conditions, identify emerging needs,

and make informed investment decisions. Accurate demographic information is also essential to allocating resources efficiently, targeting services to underserved populations, and ensuring that programs are delivered where they are needed most. In sum, reliable census data are essential to regional councils' planning, service delivery, and long-term investment decisions.

NARC appreciates the Census Bureau's efforts to follow its constitutional mandates, improve the decennial census data, and promote efficiency, and provides comments below on each of the efforts outlined.

Usual Residence

NARC recommends preserving the existing protocol of using April 1 as the "usual residence" for the purposes of the 2030 decennial census. We appreciate the Census Bureau's effort to improve the decennial census data by counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place. In the proposed rule, the Census Bureau proposes to count "usual residence" through the use of an enumeration period between January 3 and April 1 of the decennial census year. Based on the information currently available, additional testing and evaluation may be warranted before implementation in the 2030 Census.

Through past testing and analysis, the Census Bureau has developed and refined protocols for how to count college students, people experiencing homelessness, people in transitory living situations, young children, and more, in conjunction with the "usual residence" criteria of April 1st. These protocols represent the best methodology to date for counting the population. Introducing a three-month enumeration period counter to the current guidance on these and other situations could create confusion for census workers and contribute to inaccuracies. The Census Bureau is currently undertaking census tests at two locations in the country; introducing this modification after the testing period limits the ability to assess its effectiveness or accuracy prior to implementation. Therefore, NARC recommends preserving the definition of "usual residence" as April 1, until more rigorous testing of a January 3–April 1 period can verify its accuracy and effectiveness.

Citizenship

NARC recommends preserving the current protocols for counting "whole persons" and continuing to include all persons who are not citizens or legal permanent residents, or provide an alternative dataset that includes this information. The Census Bureau proposes to restrict the census to count only citizens of the United States living in the country, legal permanent residents, and some overseas military and federal government personnel. Restricting the census in this manner would severely undercount the total U.S. population and negatively impact the ability of regions and local governments to continue to serve their communities.

Restricting the census population count to the proposed definitions does not count foreign residents who are here living in the United States on student visas, work visas, approved asylum seekers, people with Temporary Protected Status, and more. While the Bureau proposes to count many of these residents using administrative records, significant challenges arise from inaccuracies between records, leading to the omission of residents, and the methodology to "clean" the records has not been thoroughly tested by the Census Bureau. Using administrative records would not be as accurate as counting all residents on the census, and therefore would not improve the accuracy, data, or efficiency of the census as stated in the goals of the proposed rule.

Furthermore, while we appreciate that the proposed rule would only be applied to the count for the census for the purpose of congressional apportionment, and not other statistical products such as the American Community Survey (ACS), it would affect other products because the census is the baseline the ACS is run against for computation. The census establishes the total population of the United States, and the total population is what the ACS compares against to ensure that its calculations are providing an accurate depiction of the nation based on the smaller sample size results of its survey. Ensuring an accurate count from the census using actual census responses remains critically important.

In addition, regions and local governments rely on federal programs that are determined and governed by accurate population counts, and changing who is counted in the census would greatly impact their ability to serve their communities. For example, Community Development Block Grant funding is calculated based on a population formula; under- or overcounting could drastically change the amount of funding that communities receive. This is also the case for certain programs for Area Agencies on Aging, economic development, USDA Rural Development, and more.

Similarly, Metropolitan Planning Organizations are designated by the Federal Highway Administration based on population counts in an urbanized area of 50,000 people or more, and Transportation Management Areas are defined as populations of 200,000 or more. Being designated or *not* designated as an MPO or a TMA resulting from inaccurate population counts changes the level of federal requirements and financial support.

Moreover, problems stemming from the use of less accurate administrative data are especially acute in transportation planning, a significant area of work for most regional councils. A strong economy requires a strong transportation system to move people and goods. Transportation planning requires accurate population data that aligns closely with actual conditions on the ground. However, imprecise administrative population estimates would not fully reflect real-world travel demand or congestion. Therefore, it is essential for transportation planners to have accurate population numbers to address the transportation needs of their region.

Finally, counting only citizens, legal permanent residents (green card holders), and certain overseas military and federal government personnel may invite constitutional and legal challenges based on the Fourteenth Amendment's understanding of whole persons. This legal challenge may delay or overturn a census conducted using the proposed definitions, causing costly delays to projects that rely on the information to proceed.

Proposed Restrictions on the Inclusion of Certain Demographic Questions in the Decennial Census Operation

NARC recommends preserving and continuing the availability of demographic information related to race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. We are concerned that the lack of accurate demographic data will reduce a region's ability to comply with civil rights laws, and to enhance the economic growth and quality of life in their regions.

While we appreciate that the ACS addresses this information, similar to the population count, it does not replace a complete decennial census, which provides a foundational population benchmark to compare the ACS against. Therefore, complete demographic information outside of the ACS is still needed.

In addition, because regional councils accept federal funding for a variety of programs, they are subject to federal civil rights requirements, and rely on certain demographic information to ensure they are in compliance with those requirements. Eliminating this question from the census would place them at risk of being out of compliance with few or costly alternatives to obtain the data and remain in compliance.

Furthermore, eliminating demographic questions reduces the ability of regional councils to enhance their regional economic growth. Businesses rely on demographic data when deciding where to locate—whether that means retail operations, industrial facilities, or corporate offices. Many regional councils engage in economic development work: they produce Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) and attract businesses by demonstrating that they have the workforce or consumer base to support the new business growth. Understanding demographic data—what the current workforce looks like, what upskilling they may need—is essential to attract new businesses and successfully grow a regional economy.

Decennial Census Proposal

NARC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Census Bureau's proposed rule and recognizes the importance of ensuring the decennial census remains accurate, reliable, and effective in fulfilling its constitutional and statutory purposes. Accurate population and

demographic data are essential for regional councils, local governments, and federal agencies to plan infrastructure investments, deliver services, support economic development, comply with civil rights requirements, and allocate resources fairly.

For the reasons outlined above, NARC recommends that the Census Bureau maintain the existing April 1 usual residence standard, continue counting all persons residing in the United States regardless of citizenship status, and preserve the current demographic questions proposed for elimination. These longstanding practices provide the most reliable foundation for producing accurate census data and ensuring that regions and communities have the information necessary to serve their residents effectively.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. NARC looks forward to continuing to work with the Census Bureau to support a complete and accurate 2030 Decennial Census.

Sincerely,



Erich Zimmermann
Executive Director
National Association of Regional Councils

September 25, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: 60-Day Extension Request for Response to Federal Register Notice 2026-18481, Decennial Census of the Population of Americans; Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions

The undersigned organizations representing metropolitan planning organizations, regional planning organizations, and regional/rural development organizations across the United States, respectfully request a 60-day extension through December 12, 2026, of the public comment period for the Census Bureau's proposed rule, Decennial Census of the Population of Americans; Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions (Federal Register Notice 2026-18481). The current comment period closes on October 13, 2026.

The proposed rule addresses important aspects of the decennial census, including residence criteria used to determine how individuals are counted and regulations governing certain demographic questions included on the decennial census questionnaire. Given the importance of Census data across a wide range of federal, state, regional, and local programs, additional time would allow stakeholders to review the proposal and assess its administrative and programmatic implications.

State and local governments and regional organizations rely on Census data for a broad range of planning, funding, and service-delivery purposes. Population and demographic data can inform eligibility for and distribution of federal formula funding and competitive grant programs, including program eligibility thresholds, measures of need, demographic and socioeconomic criteria, and other factors used in federal funding decisions. Census data also supports infrastructure investment, housing and community development, economic development, public health, emergency management, and other essential government functions.

Transportation programs illustrate this reliance in more detail. Census data informs federal transportation planning and funding processes, including metropolitan planning organization designations, transportation management area thresholds, funding distributions and suballocations, transit and other formula programs, competitive grant applications, and long-range regional planning. Because these data are used across multiple programs and levels of government, stakeholders would benefit from more time to assess how the proposed changes could affect existing planning, funding, and administrative processes.

A 60-day extension would allow state, local, and regional organizations to coordinate with our members and partners, review the proposal across relevant program areas, and provide the Department of Census Bureau with thoughtful, well-informed feedback on implementation and practical considerations.

We appreciate the Department and Census Bureau's consideration of this request and the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule.

Respectfully,



Bill Keyrouze
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations



Joe McKinney
Executive Director
National Association of Development Organizations



Erich Zimmermann
Executive Director
National Association of Regional Councils

Puget Sound Regional Council

November 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Equity Advisory Committee

From: Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications

Subject: **Inclusive and Accessible Outreach**

IN BRIEF

PSRC is committed to making its outreach and public engagement activities more inclusive and accessible for all communities. As a public agency, PSRC is required by federal law to meet new legal accessibility standards. The agency is working with Elizabeth Ralston consulting to improve equal access to digital and physical spaces, including our website, regular board meetings and public events. Ms. Ralston will be at the Equity Advisory Committee meeting to get feedback on the scope of work for this project.

DISCUSSION

This work builds on efforts to enhance and deepen outreach and accessibility for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan and embed best practices in all outreach and engagement work in the future. Ms. Ralston is developing and implementing a work plan that includes staff training, tools and supporting materials, including the following tasks:

- Design and deliver a training series for PSRC staff to explore best practices to ensure agency outreach is inclusive.
- Audit PSRC boardroom and board meeting procedures.
- Create meeting checklists to ensure inclusivity is considered and accessibility standards are met.
- Review video presentation format on PSRC's website to ensure meeting videos and presentations take accessibility into account.
- Devise suggested list and profile of community-based organizations to partner with to further network and impact

NEXT STEPS

PSRC is subject to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which requires state and local government entities to provide people living with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from their programs, services, and activities, ensuring equal access to public services, facilities, and digital content.

In April 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) updated its regulations for Title II, establishing specific requirements for web content and mobile applications. All digital content must meet the Website Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standards, or the exception criteria, by April 26, 2028.

For more information contact Robin Koskey, Director of Government Relations and Communications, at (206) 971-3602 or rkoskey@psrc.org.

Puget Sound Regional Council

November 5, 2026

DISCUSSION ITEM

To: Equity Advisory Committee

From: Noah P. Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist

Subject: **Quarterly Engagement Activity**

IN BRIEF

Throughout 2026, EAC meetings will feature engagement activities once per quarter to continue to build camaraderie among members. These activities are a continuation of the Quarterly Engagement Activities from previous years, with some adjustments to make them more engaging. The goal of these structured times is to allow EAC members to become more familiar with one another and the work they do outside of the monthly meetings with PSRC.

Each Quarterly Engagement Activity will feature interesting facts about several members of the EAC and will allow space for them to share about this experience or piece of their background. EAC members will only share facts and statements with their approved consent prior to each meeting.

For additional information, please contact Noah P. Boggess, Senior Public Engagement Specialist, at nboggess@psrc.org or 206-464-6170.